

SCRIPTURES FOR THE BLIND

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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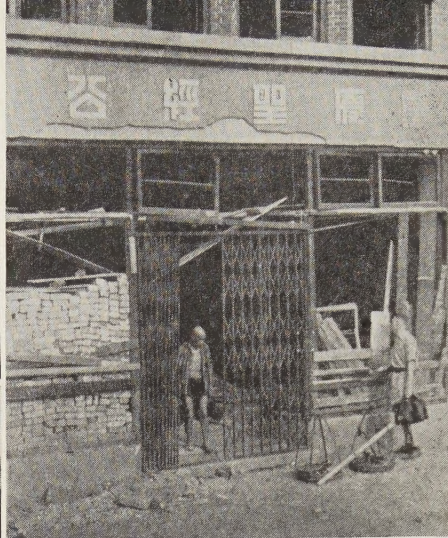
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"O HOW LOVE I THY LAW!"

TRANSLATION

DISTRIBUTION



China Carries On

The picture at the extreme left shows Mr. H. Lin, the Society's sub agent in Chungking, amid the ruins of his sales room after the Chungking Bible House had been bombed in June. At the near right is a more general view of the Bible House after the bombing. With these pictures before them, our readers

may wish to reread the very intimate story taken from letters of Mr. Lin and contained in an article appearing in the September *Bible Society Record* entitled "Pardon me to go to the hills." At the lower left, the Society's agent in Shanghai, Dr. Carleton Lacy, appears with his friend Robin Chen. The picture was snapped on the Burma road, which is just now being reopened by the British Government as an artery of supply for "Free China." Not least among the demands of the Chinese, both in the occupied and the unoccupied areas, are copies of the Scriptures. The bombing of the Chungking Bible House has added to the difficulties of supplying copies in "Free China" where there is an increasing demand on the part of the large student population concentrated in that area.



A Cheering Word from London

THE American Bible Society family feels very close just now to its English neighbor, the British and Foreign Bible Society, whose home is at 146 Queen Victoria Street, London. For weeks we have wondered how these beloved neighbors were faring. On October 8 came a most reassuring letter, which we reproduce here in its entirety, signed by Secretary Arthur H. Wilkinson and containing statements which one might suppose the censor's knife would have deleted.

The British and Foreign Bible Society is the world's foremost organization of its kind. It was founded in 1804 and now maintains distributing agencies in all parts of the British Empire and in many other lands. It has aided in the translation of the Scriptures into over 700 languages, and has in its 135 years of service distributed over 521,000,000 volumes of Scripture.

The war has greatly impeded the service of the British and Foreign (Turn to page 142)



The Bible House in London

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution
of the Holy Scriptures

VOLUME 85

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Publish Glad Tidings

By Rome A. Betts

IT was back in 1914, on the eve of Great Britain's entrance into the World War, that the then foreign minister, Viscount Grey, is said to have remarked gravely, "The lights are going out all over Europe."

That comment was true of the Europe of 1914. It applies with almost equal force to the *world* of 1940.

Because the lights of the world, both literally and figuratively, are being blacked out, many people have been filled with gloomy foreboding. Civilization as they have known it seems doomed. Force, violence, and ruthlessness are rampant throughout the world.

Our eyes have grown weary, our ears deafened, with the constant reiteration of these dismal themes.

And yet, until people, the world over, become filled to bursting with another message,—the "good news" of Jesus Christ,—we must continue to expect such preachments from the prophets of doom.

The American Bible Society has been using as its slogan for the War Emergency Fund, "There Must Be No Blackout of the Bible." This striking phrase arrests the reader's attention. One longs, however, for a slogan to sweep the land from end to end proclaiming mightily the redeeming power of the Christian faith to transform lives, to restore hope, to fill hearts with high courage.

Why not, then, the phrase "Publish glad tidings" from that grand old missionary hymn as our battle cry. How shall we implement such a slogan that it may help us to prevent a blackout of the Bible? The program indicated is simple and clear. I know it will work, because I have seen it work in communities where

the Society has aided in Bible emphasis months. Its requirements are three:

1. *All* who call themselves Christians must recommit themselves to a regular use of the Bible, the textbook of our faith—the best source for us to tap, that we may have a reason for the hope that is in us.

2. Only so shall we gain the sufficient conviction and zeal to bear a living witness to that hope. Gospel means good news. When people have *good news*, they spread it; never do they selfishly keep it to themselves. Even those who feel incapable of talking openly to others about this good news, can at least give out a Testament or a Gospel; perhaps underscoring passages in which God speaks to them, in the hope that such passages may speak to others also. This might become a continuous practice. One never knows when the burning light from the Book will ignite some life, till it bursts into a bright and living flame. Should any substantial number of Christians do this, a revival would sweep the church such as this country has never known.

3. It must be remembered that the gospel is a universal gospel: it cannot be limited to any race or color class or clan. The encouraging fact is, that the fastest-growing churches today are to be found in mission lands. These young churches must not be handicapped in their moment of growth by lack of essential tools. According to the findings of the Madras Conference, the Bible is the most essential of all. To shut off the supply now would be fatal to the continued expansion and nourishment of the younger churches.

As these pages have reported before, the American Bible Society is now the one agency

in strategic position to keep the gospel circulating within the nations. The Bible Societies of Britain and the Continent are either closed or seriously hampered by the war. American Christians have the primary opportunity by their sacrificial gifts to keep the gospel flame aglow in the midst of a dark world.

The lights of Europe may be going out one by one. The duty of Bible-loving Americans, however, is plain: it is to keep them burning steadily in our own hearts, and to pass the taper to the hearts of our fellow countrymen, and to those in other lands where the followers of Christ are still able to publish his glad tidings.

. . .

The Bible in the Home

The following suggestions are available in pamphlet form for those who may find them helpful in restoring to America a fuller measure of her devotion to the Bible

By Francis C. Stiffler

EVERY parent wishes the best for his children: the best in health, in education, in opportunity, in companionship, and, most of all, in character. Homes are established to insure just these things. The location of the home, its appointments, its daily program, its atmosphere, are all studied particularly that those who live there may grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Which immediately suggests the Bible. The Bible has been the cornerstone of the best homes always and everywhere. The home is where the Bible was first used by Christians. The churches met in homes. The schools likewise. These have outgrown the home; but the Bible still does its best work in its original setting. The church-school movement came into being principally because the Bible was being neglected in so many homes. Too much can not be said in praise of the church school. Wise parents will attend it themselves, not only to encourage their children to go, but to improve their own knowledge and love of the Bible. But, far more can be done for the development of character through the use of the Bible in the home than anywhere else.

The unrivalled stream of parental influence can be sweetened by the parents' own use of the Bible. Children unconsciously grow interested in the interests of their parents. Parental enthusiasm for music, for flowers, for art, is contagious. Likewise parental enthusiasm for the Bible.

That the Bible may hold its redemptive place in the home, the following suggestions are offered:

1. The Bible will have a regular place among those things which the family does together. The family eats together, and every meal may begin with prayers which reflect the Bible's teachings. To these prayers may be added the reciting of memory verses of praise and thanksgiving.

2. Family worship is possible in thousands of homes. If not each day, there can always be found at least one time each week when the family may gather about the Bible and its message.

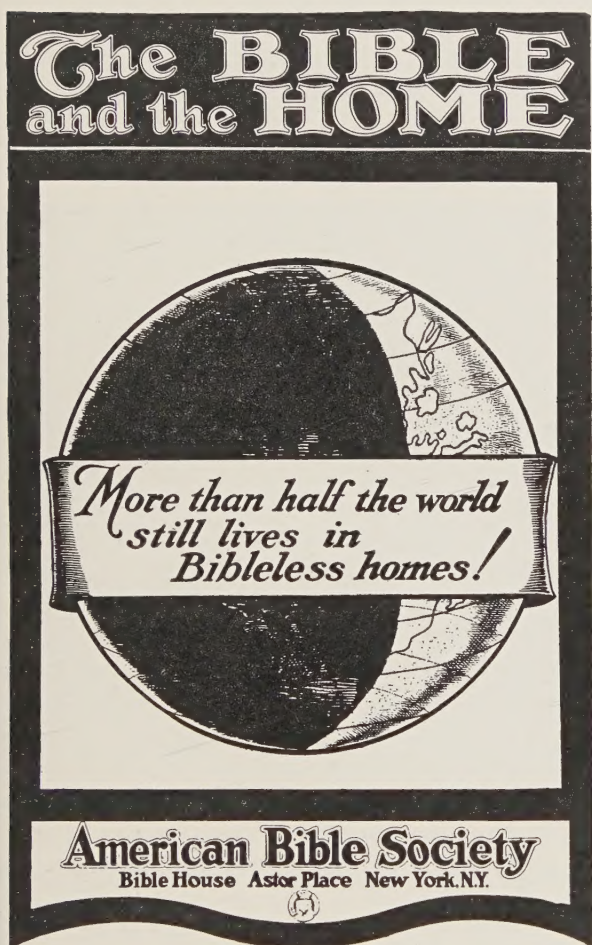
3. The power of music to bridge the gap between ages has always helped to hold home life together. To this end, it is always a help to use the hymnal along with family Bible reading. A little study of the topical index of a standard hymnal will reveal how simply this can be done. Children who early learn to sing their religion retain it better for the long hard days of adulthood.

4. In every home, every copy of the Bible should become an object of reverence and respect. It is well to have every member of the family possess his own copy of the Bible, preferably with his name stamped in gold letters on the cover. Even very small children who cannot yet be expected to read for themselves may thus grow into the right attitude toward the Book.

5. As children mature, parents will find many helpful arrangements of the Scriptures, printed in large type for beginners, with pictures and other aids to unfolding interest. Older children who have mastered some of the principles of elementary education will welcome instruction in the use of a teachers' edition of the Bible

with references, concordance, topical indexes, maps, and other helps. The use of these, however, should never become a substitute for the Bible text itself.

6. Many homes have been helped by establish-



So popular was the 1927 Bible Sunday theme that the supply of the poster above was almost immediately exhausted

ing in the living room a Bible corner, where there may be assembled a small family Bible with family register pages faithfully kept, children's editions of the Scriptures, a Bible dictionary, and other books that help toward an understanding of God's Word. Beside its practical convenience, such a Bible corner lays constant emphasis upon the fact that the Bible is different and more important than any other book in the house.

The successful use of the Bible in the home lies with the parents. Underneath all else must be an unshakable conviction that, in spite of all the difficulties attendant on securing time for

the reading and study of the Bible, it must play a major rôle in the family's common life and in the individual lives of all the members.

It is important that the family's interest in the Bible be natural and unforced. On the assumption that it is one of the common interests of the group, it should find its natural place in the table talk and fireside chats of the family circle.

Thus the Word is made to live in the life of a home. On almost all its pages the Bible presents man as seeking God's approval. One can not live with the Book by daily habit and not himself grow in his desire and capacity to please his Maker. The constant thinking on the things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, produces what is noblest in human character, and pays the highest dividends on the investment in a home.

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"Self-conscious of Luxuries"

THE following letter recently came from a nurse in one of the state sanitariums of Michigan. It expresses the spirit which, if caught by many others, will greatly ease the burden that just now weighs so heavily upon the staff at the Bible House and the Society's workers at their posts around the world—that there shall not be added to the world's accumulated woes a "Bible blackout."

Please find enclosed postal money order for one dollar as a donation for Bibles.

I have read your magazine and was surprised to learn how much the missionaries depend on the Bible Societies here and abroad.

Our Methodist church here gives a yearly sum to the Society. I tithe my salary and give half to the church fund proper. Then, one of our nurses left here last September for Tel-Aviv, Palestine, and I try to send her money. What I have left I give to our Women's Foreign Missionary Society on the budget. For home missions I do considerably for orphans and children in my department here. I am night nurse, and have the care of thirty-five children. So you can understand why I feel I can't send you so much, even though the spirit is willing.

Since getting your magazine I have become self-conscious of luxuries. I think of how ten cents here and ten cents there would purchase tracts and Gospels. So you have impressed one individual with the world's great need of Bibles.

You will hear from me again when I can spare it. I wish I could get more people interested. Perhaps God will show me how.

May God bless the Bible Society and expand it! and may the Bible maintain the light needed in a darkening world.

(Continued from page 138)

Bible Society. Thousands of its loyal supporters have been unable to maintain their support. The whole publishing process has suffered setbacks from many directions, and the business of sending the Book to the uttermost parts has become more and more difficult as the war has progressed. The Society has been forced to cut its budget deeply, but is courageously carrying on.

In China and in Japan, in the Near East and in parts of Latin America, the American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society conduct their work as a unit. In these places and elsewhere throughout the world, the American Bible Society is prepared to increase its share of the common burden as fast as its funds make this possible. Half of the War Emergency Fund of \$150,000 which the American Bible Society is now raising is allocated to the support of the British and other societies caught in the meshes of war. If you have not made your contribution to this fund (which should be in addition to your regular gift), please do so when you have read Secretary Wilkinson's letter. Make your check payable to Treasurer, American Bible Society; mark it Emergency Fund; and mail it to the American Bible Society, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City.

Secretary Wilkinson writes:

I know that you friends overseas will be feeling anxious about us here at the Bible House, in view of all the accounts you will be receiving about the bombardment of London. I can relieve your anxiety at once by telling you that we are all well, and that the Bible House stands as firmly as before.

In addition to the big bomb in St. Paul's churchyard, we had a smaller one in the middle of Queen Victoria Street a few yards from this building. I am told it broke its way right through to the underground railway, but it was immobilized before it could do further damage.

Life is very much disorganized. The railways have been constantly bombed, especially in the south and east; e.g., there is only one road open now from Sevenoaks, where I live, and that is broken for a gap of four or five miles, which has to be done by bus. One day it took me four hours to do my 22 miles, and my average time now is between two and three hours. The rest of the staff is in a similar predicament, although most of them live nearer to the House than this. A further complication is caused by continual air raid warnings. We have a wonderful shelter under the building, and we are supposed to resort thither so soon as the siren goes. Most of us would prefer to carry on, and some of us do. I believe that, if the present state of things is prolonged, we civilians shall have to regard ourselves as ordinary service men and women and take the risks. Otherwise London will be almost entirely immobilized by sporadic raids. A further difficulty is the lack of sleep owing to the

terrific barrage put up by our anti-aircraft guns, interspersed with the crump of bombs. As a consequence of this, we have had to work on a rota basis. The secretaries and heads of departments, for instance, come up on Mondays and Fridays and one day in between. Of course, the mails are greatly reduced, and we are able to cope with most of the essential work. Committees are more or less in abeyance, owing to the difficulty of getting the members together.

One of the most tragic sides of our life is the destruction of the homes of some of our staff. Two of the charwomen have been rendered homeless, as also some other members of the staff. Several others of us are, or have been, living with unexploded bombs



Sand bags protect the London Bible House windows

in our gardens or near at hand. I was in that position a week ago.

This letter may convey to you a sense of depression on our part. I can assure you that there is no such thing. We get annoyed, but we are always full of high spirits. It is astonishing to see how little the ordinary man and woman is worried by the state of affairs. I see a good deal of things in Sevenoaks, where we have constant fighting overhead. Our planes are forever up intercepting the enemy on his way to London from the Continent and harassing him on his way back. A large number of planes are scattered around about us and bombs are often jettisoned, sometimes on property and sometimes in the open fields. A certain number of people have been killed, which sends a chill of horror to our hearts as we hear of it. But, for the most part, it is a case of elation as we watch our Hurricanes and Spitfires bringing down the bombers in extraordinary dogfights overhead.

Our thoughts are constantly with you overseas, knowing your anxiety on our behalf; knowing, too, how often you will be remembering us before the throne of God. We are ever grateful for the fellowship of the Bible Society.

With kindest wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely,

A. H. Wilkinson, *Secretary.*

As we write these words, on October 9, comes a radio bulletin that a thousand bombers and fighting planes swarmed over London yesterday. Let us pray daily that the London Bible House, bright beacon of hope in Christ Jesus,

may shine on until the days of blackouts are forever gone, and the nations of men shall with unwonted eagerness demand that book that exalts the Prince of Peace and imparts the power to follow in his way.

. . .

Steve Ferko of Detroit

By G. Bruce Cameron

IT is a long way from being convicted of a serious crime to selling Bibles for the Bible Society; yet God reduced that distance to a hand's breadth. Steve Ferko, now the Society's colporteur in Detroit, was sent to prison at the age of eighteen. A year later, in the reformatory, a young evangelist handed him a Testament, and kept coming to visit him, until he had led him to the throne of grace. Steve was finally exonerated and pardoned—nineteen years later. The intervening years were filled with Bible study and devoted Christian service. During that time Steve not only led many others to Christ, but gave hundreds of Bibles, which the Bible Society had sent him, to his fellow prisoners, and had still others mailed directly to their parents; for he discovered it was from broken and Godless homes that most of these men came.

After many years of such service, Steve began to pray, not only for release, but that when released he might become a Bible Society colporteur, taking the Bible to the people. Both prayers were answered, and the Society now has a devoted, earnest servant of Christ bringing the Bible to the unreached foreign-speaking people of Detroit.

Steve has reached his goal; but it is a hard and often thankless task to which he has set himself. He often feels that, in prison with Christ, he was more free than countless others he has since met who are bound in slavery to sin. More and more he feels he must bring the message of Christ to them, in order that they, too, might become free. The doors do not open easily to the Bible salesman among the foreign-speaking people in a great American city. Many are atheistic or prejudiced against the Bible; still others are totally indifferent. Yet, here and there, the Spirit of the Lord has so prepared the ground, that the colporteur must

go on to win his man. Here is a man pruning the trees in his front yard. Steve speaks to him, and, as is his custom, inquires if he has a Bible. The man gives a curt answer, because he has no reverence for the Word of God. The conversation continues until the wife from the porch calls to find out what is going on, and invites this talkative stranger inside. Four strapping sons come in one by one, and to each of these Steve sells a Testament, although he can not interest the parents. He has visited that home a number of times since, and reports a growing interest in the reading of these Testaments, not only on the part of the sons, but by the mother and, he trusts soon, the



Steve Ferko on his rounds of Bibleless homes

father. Thus it is that patience and Christ's spirit win men.

In one of the homes in the better class of the foreign-speaking people, Steve discovered a girl who had won some fame in New York City as

a singer. He asked her the same question, "Do you have a Bible?" She did not have one. She had not read it. She now has one, and is reading it.

Fruits like these, some of them gained only after hard work, make the going easier and lighten not only the load of books, but likewise the load of care for those who are thus brought to read Christ's message.

The foreign-speaking groups in Detroit are widely scattered. The following language groups and their populations follow:

Language Group	Population	Language Group	Population
Bulgarians and Macedonians .	5,000	Lithuanians	11,000
Finns	10,000	Poles	125,000
Greeks	12,000	Rumanians	17,000
Hungarians	30,000	Russians	51,000
Italians	68,000	Syrians	8,000
Jugoslavs and Czechoslovaks	Scattered	Ukrainians	15,000

Some of these groups are centered twelve miles from one another across a busy city. It takes time and expense to go back and forth from Mr. Ferko's home to various sections of the city to which his work calls him. In each of the sections there are Protestant foreign-

language churches. At present, their members are being surveyed for Bible needs through the help of the pastors; and where the pastor deems it advisable, the people are called upon and urged to possess and read the Bible. Steve's visits to these homes have often won wayward members back to the fold, and his earnest devotion to Christ has inspired many a pastor. One pastor included no mention of a prayer meeting on his bulletin board. This saddened Steve, who asked the preacher about it. The next time Steve visited the community, he noticed the bulletin board included the announcement of a Wednesday night meeting.

It is a long road across the years of Steve Ferko's reformatory experience, but he bears a testimony for Christ out of that experience. He holds young people and adults spellbound with his simple message. He is winning (with his story) his way into the churches and into the homes of the careless and indifferent. It is a slow process, selling Bibles to people, one by one; but it is a sure process in the end. Colportage through Steve Ferko's God-given grace is winning souls for Jesus Christ in Detroit.

. . .

Ministering to Military Men

As the nation's defense program progresses, the American Bible Society, as all through the country's history, will expand its services to meet the Scripture needs of enlisted men. The following paragraphs reflect the inauguration of this important service

" "IT seems like a rather religious hospital," suggested the Major, as he encountered the chaplain at the entrance to the ward. 'Did you say "Religious," Major?' came my quick reply, while seeking an answer to the usual jibes that a chaplain encounters. Stepping through the one swinging door still held open by the Major, I cautiously volunteered, 'I trust that you are not allergic to such matters, Sir.' Absent-mindedly he still held the door, as his eyes slowly followed the pillow line that was silhouetted against the open windows. I tried to conceal my curiosity as I watched his eyes stop, then go, then stop again. 'I wish I knew the secret,' he said in a staccato monotone.

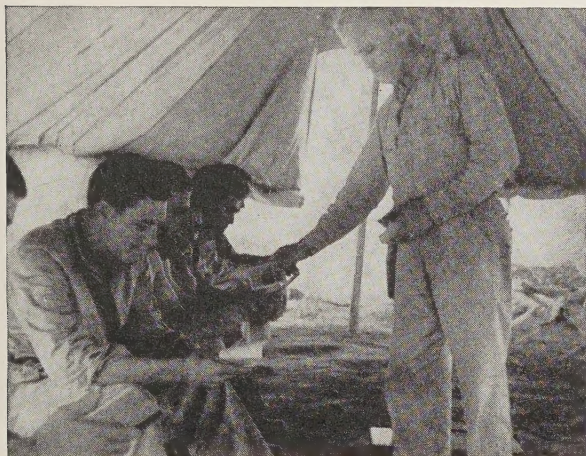
"Suddenly, just as if I had awakened from my

afternoon siesta by the tumult of artillery, I caught the deeper significance of that which had puzzled the Major. I had looked upon the same scene daily, but it had never occurred to me as unusual. Every man in that ward held a copy of some New Testament or Gospel in his hand. Not only were they holding them, but also they were diligently reading. A stranger might have readily surmised that an examination was soon to be held, and that intense cramming was necessary to the final ordeal. Pages turned in rhythmic sequence, and the solemn quietness of a desert monastery prevailed.

"Two emotions arose within me for immediate battle. Should I leave the Major with the impression, certainly apparent and convincing

that now swayed his mind, or, should I tell him the truth?

"The door slammed shut. Realizing that an immediate answer was necessary, I reached into my musette bag and offered the Major the Gospel of St. John. 'This Gospel,' I continued,



Enlisted men at every war period in American history have shown a genuine interest in God's Word. As rapidly as friends of the Bible and of the new recruits make it possible, the American Bible Society will see that the books are made available

'together with copies of St. Matthew, St. Mark, and St. Luke, are given to every man in the ward. If they will read any one Gospel, I reward their efforts by presenting them with a copy of a complete New Testament.'

"Hesitatingly, the Major took the Gospel from my hand, and, turning its pages slowly, said, 'Do you mean that, by reading one of these, one can receive a complete New Testament to keep?'—'Yes, sir,' I nodded in assent. 'Suppose,' he kept on, 'that I read this Gospel, would you also give me a New Testament, Chaplain? Although I had established the plan for patients of the hospital only, I was more than ready to acquiesce in the Major's request.

"It would be superfluous for me to state that the Major 'earned' his New Testament also. Later, in a moment of personal gratitude, he confided that more than fourteen years had elapsed since he last read any portion of the Bible. 'Furthermore,' he added, 'I have found it more interesting than I had anticipated.'

"Through this rather simple plan, it was possible for me to distribute two hundred and fifty Gospels, thirty-nine Psalms (to Jewish lads

only), and forty-nine New Testaments actually earned."

This incident was included in the report of Rev. Carl C. E. Mellberg, an Army chaplain serving his nation and his God at the first army maneuvers at Plattsburg during August 1940. At his request, the American Bible Society had sent him as a donation fifty New Testaments and three hundred portions.

Similarly, Chaplain R. G. Hedrick of the Oklahoma National Guard, to whom were sent 360 portions for distribution at the maneuvers near Pitkin, Louisiana, writes in part:

"One young man said, 'Chaplain, I have read all four of those little books. Do you have any more of them?' What he had read was Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John."

The accompanying picture shows Chaplain Hedrick giving out the Gospels in one of the field hospitals.

Another Oklahoma National Guard chaplain, Rev. H. A. Morton, was supplied with 650 portions for these same maneuvers. He reports as follows:

"I made contact with almost every man of the 158th Field Artillery of the Oklahoma National Guard on Sunday, August 11. A portion was given to each man whom I met on the rounds of the tents, and a portion left on the cot of those who were not in their tents. Without exception, the men were glad to receive them.

"A great many didn't wait for me to reach them, but came asking for a copy. At least half a dozen men asked me if they could have a copy of each of the Gospels and also of the Psalms. One lad managed to secure Matthew, John, and the Psalms, and asked me to mail him copies of Mark and Luke. I was able to do this, as I had about a dozen in all left over. Perhaps most striking was a word which came to me indirectly. A man whose name I do not know happened to find a copy of Matthew's Gospel on his cot. He read it, and later said to one of his tentmates, who brought the story to me, 'This is the first time I have looked in or read any part of the Bible for at least ten years.' There were many expressions of appreciation to me as chaplain for bringing these portions. I tried as I could to pass to the men, and I have also given public expression in the church, that it was the American Bible Society which should receive their thanks."

The Word Thrives in New Languages

By Margaret T. Hills

LETTERS from many parts of the earth bring to the Bible House news of the progress of the translation of the Scriptures, and reports of the appreciation and use of translations already published.

A missionary in Kenya Colony, in a boys' boarding school where every boy must have a copy of the Olunyore New Testament, one morning saw one of the boys, sitting on a rock, quietly reading his Testament. It seems he was having ear trouble, and, while the others were at chapel, he had found a beautiful spot in which to read his own Testament himself. How interesting it would be to know just what passage he was reading, and what were his thoughts!

How a Testament in your own tongue may help lay the foundations for a happy marriage, is illustrated by this item recently received from Guatemala. At a wedding the groom made sure that, during the service, the Mam preacher would read the duties of a wife toward her husband, and of a husband toward a wife, from the Mam New Testament, so that his wife would clearly understand.

Another language of Guatemala in which only a tentative Gospel has yet been published, but in which Mr. William Sedat is at work, is called the Kekchi language. The following excerpt from a letter of a fellow worker shows why missionaries are encouraged to go on with the arduous task of mastering these Indian tongues:

During the Christmas holidays I took with me two Indian Bible school boys and two Indian believers, driving to Senahú, a town largely composed of Indians. There we visited the homes of the people, playing an accordion and singing hymns translated into the Kekchi language, and reading from translations of portions from the Word made by Brother Sedat. The interest of these raw, unevangelized Indians was thrilling to see.

In one home, smoke filled, cane thatched, built of upright split balsa poles, we found an old Indian woman. One of our evangelized Indians addressed his remarks principally to her, while three grown sons, their Indian wives, little brothers, and a fairly large group of smaller children listened attentively



A missionary in Guatemala reads from a typewritten translation of the Scriptures in the Kekchi language

and with growing interest. As our Indian spoke of one God, the Indian woman said, "Yes, we know that from the traditions of our forefathers." She was interested and pleased, and when we sang in Kekchi, she thanked us. While the family was listening, another of our Indians was showing the Kekchi Gospel of St. John to a little boy of about ten years. This boy, who had gone to school and could read a little Spanish, after seeing how he might learn to read in his own language, said, "I will give you two cents for the book." So we took two cents from his hard-earned little savings. He probably does not earn four cents a day, but he took the book and promised to learn to read it. Under similar circumstances we left some nine Gospels in the hands of Indians who could read to others the Word of life in their own tongue. . . . A few days ago our senior missionary expressed in these words the difficulties in opening up this Indian work: "We have never yet tried to do something especially for the Indians that Satan has not done his utmost to wreck it. It seems that the enemy has an especial hold upon this people that he is loath to let go, and will fight every effort made to give the gospel to the Indian." But last week, as I traveled with the Indian boys and lived with them around the camp fire and in services held every night, preaching through an interpreter to both Ladinos and Indians, I felt that the devil surely was suffering a defeat. God was assuredly with us, the Word was understood, and the Indian, treated in a respectful, loving, and interested manner, responded in a most hopeful manner."

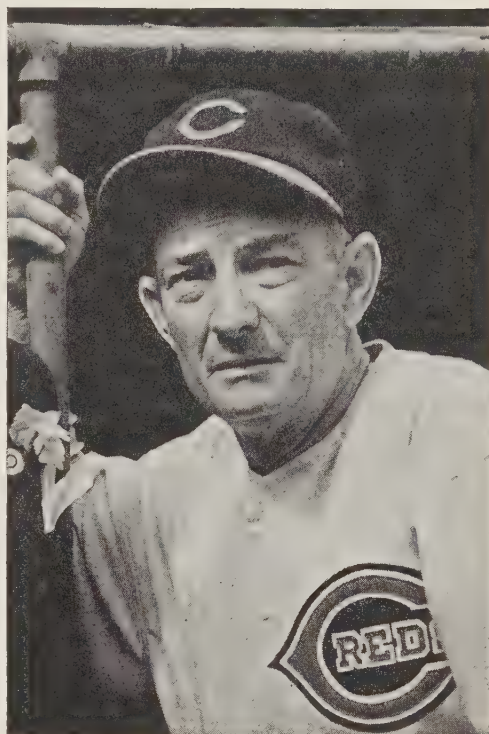
Bibles for Big Leaguers

And some glimpses of the faithful labors of two "retired" ministers who sow the seed in fertile but neglected patches of the nation's life

MILLIONS of people each year follow with keen interest the fortunes of the big leagues' baseball teams. The 1940 season recently closed with the palm of victory awarded to the Cincinnati team in the National League. W. B. McKechnie, manager of the winning team, has for years been affectionately nicknamed "Deacon" because of the earnest Christian life which he lives. And this fact brings to mind the quiet but effective work that has been done for years by the Reverend W. S. Coeyman, now well beyond his three-score years and ten, who, among other fields of Scripture distribution, has for many seasons distributed Testaments to the squads of big-league ball players while they are at their winter practice quarters in Florida. Over five years ago, when the now famous Mr. McKechnie was manager of the Boston team in the National League, Mr. Coeyman furnished the entire squad, whether Catholic or Protestant, with New Testaments, and received the following note from the manager: "It is with deep appreciation that I write to thank you for the New Testaments which you so kindly sent to members of the Braves; also for the sixteen copies of the Roman Catholic New Testament, which are obtained through the kindness of Father O'Riordan."

At the beginning of the present season Mr. Coeyman supplied Testaments to the New York club of the American League familiarly known as the "Yankees." In response Manager Joe McCarthy writes: "It is with deep appreciation that I write to thank you for the New Testaments which you kindly gave me and the team. God's Word has proved a great comfort to me, and to my wife also, especially when passing through a serious illness."

His concern for the spiritual welfare of big-league ball players reflects only a part of Mr. Coeyman's constant activities. Wherever he is, at home in the summer or in the South in the winter, he is tirelessly remembering with gifts of the Word of God the people whom others might overlook. In scores of hotels and



"Deacon Bill" McKechnie

summer resorts he has rendered this ministry to clerks, cooks, waiters, waitresses, as well as guests. He has visited the coast-guard stations, the players in municipal bands, nurses' homes, police headquarters, and, of course, he has joined many others in Scripture distribution in jails, prisons, and hospitals.

When Mr. Coeyman retired from the active ministry twelve years ago, having done a great deal of prison work during his last thirty years in the pastorate, he says that he sought God's will in prayer and was definitely led to this unique work, believing God would supply his needs. From the first he has never lacked funds sufficient to keep him busy among those whom others might forget.

• •

In early September, Rev. W. H. Schureman of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed his eighty-seventh birthday. He writes to the editors of

Have you ever heard

That the American Bible Society has an annuity plan which will provide you with a steady income for life and at the same time give you the satisfaction of making the Bible more widely available throughout the world?

+

Write Department 62Af for your copy of the booklet "A Gift That Lives." Full details of the Society's annuity plan are contained in it.

the *Bible Society Record*, in a beautiful steady flowing hand, of the work that is dearest to his heart. Briefly stated, it is this. He buys from the American Bible Society leather-bound Bibles which sell at two dollars and twenty cents, carefully underlines with ink about two hundreds of the more beloved and helpful passages, and sends them to people of his acquaintance whom he knows will appreciate what he has done, and become more interested in the study of the Word. He writes: "I find that a mind stored with memory verses is a vast storehouse on which the Christian can draw in every emergency or time of special need. So I have now at my command enough of the Word so that, as I leave my home on Sunday morning for church, I can repeat from memory verse after verse, until I have completed the seven blocks to the church door."

Mr. Schureman hopes to continue to do this special service as long as he is physically able, which apparently, in spite of his advanced age, is to be his privilege for some years to come.

In retrospect Mr. Schureman, who has been a Sabbath-school missionary of the Presbyterian Board since 1898, has much to his credit. During his years of service he traveled 300,000 miles, making about 1,400 visits on families and

individuals. Thirty-five churches grew out of his work, of which twenty-six are still functioning and require the services of twenty ordained ministers. What a rewarding life it has been and still is, bearing its fruit every year to the glory of God.

• •

Seminary Middlers Sharpen Their Pencils

SECOND-year seminary students all over America will be reading on their bulletin boards an announcement of an essay contest sponsored by the American Bible Society.

Because of the liberal provision made by a friend of the Society, there will be an award of \$100 made for the best discussion of the subject "The Responsibility of the Local Church for Scripture Distribution." Four additional regional awards will be given.

The Society desires an original study of the distribution of Scriptures in the mission fields, and more particularly in the local community, with definite suggestions for Scripture distribution which would fit naturally into the program of a local church. It is intended that the completed essay be so specific, that it could be placed in the hands of a pastor to guide him and his church officers in launching a practical and continuous program of Scripture distribution.

The length of the essay is set at between three and five thousand words. The time limit is from October 1, 1940, to midnight January 31, 1941. The judges will be selected from the Board of Managers, and the award will be announced in April 1941.

As a result of this contest among seminary students, it is hoped that an increasing number of the future leaders of our churches may become familiar with the problems and processes arising from the Society's purpose of supplying the Scriptures to the multitudes.

Record readers may cooperate by clipping this column and placing it in the hands of seminary students.

A Way You Can Help

Letters were sent to all who made gifts to the Society from January to July this year, requesting the donors to send specially prepared letters to their friends regarding the Society's war emergency fund. If you did not get one of these letters and would be willing to interest others in the fund, won't you write and tell us so? We will be glad to furnish letters, descriptive folders, and envelopes. Address R. A. Betts, Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York.

As December 8th Approaches

Universal Bible Sunday offers this year an opportunity to stress the importance of the Bible in maintaining our nation's usefulness to a warring world. The day may be made a helpful approach to the Christmas observances of every church. North Dakota churches will celebrate in a unique way

ABOUT the time this copy of the *Bible Society Record* reaches its readers, the pastors of the nation, approximately 120,000 of them, will be receiving from the Bible House a packet of material which the Society has prepared to encourage their celebrating Universal Bible Sunday on December 8. Universal Bible Sunday has now been observed widely in this and other lands for many years. The theme this year "For the Healing of the Nations" suggests to American Christians that their rich heritage in the Bible, upon whose teachings the very foundations of our nation were laid, is a heritage we must now share in a very positive, determined way with the family of nations. The brochure is written, significantly enough, this year for the first time by a Christian leader of the Orient, Dr. T. Z. Koo, secretary of the World Student Christian Federation and one of China's foremost Christian leaders.

The occasion also offers an opportunity to impress Bible-loving Americans with the added responsibility they have this year to see that the Word of God is kept in circulation among the nations through their own Bible Society. Elsewhere in this issue is a statement of the degree to which the American Bible Society has definitely undertaken to "fill up that which is lacking" necessarily in the present ability of the great British and Foreign Bible Society and other European Bible Societies to carry their share of the basic missionary task of supplying the Bible to those who do not have it.

As in former years, the day will be celebrated by special broadcasts on the nation's great networks and many local stations. The December issue of the *Bible Society Record* will carry definite notice of the network broadcasts. The governors of many of the states and the President of the United States will issue endorsements and proclamations.

A unique form of celebration is being sponsored among the churches of North Dakota by

the State Council of Christian Education. As a fitting preparation for the Christmas season, the plan proposed is that the entire life of Christ as contained in the Gospels be read at one continuous three-hour service to be held in each church or community on Bible Sunday. It provides for participation by twelve thoroughly prepared readers for whom selections, each taking fifteen minutes to read, have been prepared which will cover the entire story, omitting the duplications that appear in the various Gospels.



The 1940 Bible Sunday Poster is the work of Dan Content, artist. It is printed in black and vivid red

Every detail has been studied by the North Dakota Council, including suggested times for the service during the day, music, ushers, promotion, offering, and educational value. Churches interested in the North Dakota experiment should write to Rev. C. A. Armstrong, 13 Roxy Building, Fargo, North Dakota.

Is your church celebrating Bible Sunday this year? Inquire of your pastor. If by any chance he does not receive the Society's packet by November 15, he should write to the nearest depository for his copy. The depositories are listed on the inside of the back cover of this issue.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider
Distribution of the Holy
Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES
Address correspondence to Francis
Carr Stifler, Editorial Secretary,
Bible House, Park Avenue and
57th Street, New York



VOL. 85 NOVEMBER 1940 No. 3

ON September 24 the Young Men's Christian Association of Dallas, Texas, was the scene of a happy gathering of about one hundred people, who dined together to honor the Reverend Joseph J. Morgan, retiring Secretary, and the Reverend Frank W. Langham, incoming Secretary, of the Southwestern District of the American Bible Society.

Judge Tom L. McCullough, chairman of the Southwestern District Advisory Council, presided, and beside addresses by the guests of honor, the closing address was made by the Reverend Graham Frank, pastor of the Central Christian Church of Dallas and representative of his denomination on the National Advisory Council of the Society which meets in New York each year. During Mr. Morgan's term of service, which began in 1910, nearly 7,500,000 volumes of Scripture in various languages were distributed in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. Upon Secretary Langham has fallen a mantle of service in his Master's cause that will tax his ingeniousness and strength almost without limit.

September Meeting of
the Board

THE fifth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-fifth year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York, on Thursday, September 5, 1940, at 3:30 p. m., President John T. Manson in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mrs. Herrick B. Young.

The minutes of the fourth stated meeting of the year were approved.

The Board approved of a special packet containing Scripture portions and pamphlets for use in connection with the work of the National Christian Mission and to encourage a wider reading of the Scriptures.

It was authorized that a Seminary Student Essay Contest on the subject "The Responsibility of the Local Church for Scripture Distribution" be sponsored by the Society, beginning October 1, 1940, and ending February 1, 1941.

The Board authorized a grant of 867 Bulu Bibles to the Presbyterian Mission in Kribi, Cameroun, in West Africa, on the sale and distribution plan.

Mr. C. S. Bell, Secretary of the Bible Lands Agency, North, who has been here on furlough and about to return to Beirut, presented the first copy of the Bulgarian pocket Bible which has just been completed, the order for its publication having been placed in 1935.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Joseph J. Morgan

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, on the ending of the active service of the Reverend J. J. Morgan as Secretary of the Southwestern Agency and District, records its deep appreciation of his thirty years of faithful and wise service. Missionary in spirit, practical and clear in planning and execution, and sympathetic with the great populations in the wide areas of his District, he has brought the Scriptures to many thousands and has won for himself the affection of the Board and all who know him. The Board extends to him and to Mrs. Morgan heartfelt wishes for years of content and joy in southwestern sunshine.

Alexander J. Allen

That the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, on the termination of the service of the

Reverend Alexander J. Allen by his election as a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, express to him their appreciation of his nine years of faithful service with the Society, and their best wishes for God's blessing on him in his new responsibilities.

The meeting was adjourned.

October Meeting of the
Board

THE sixth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-fifth year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York, on Thursday, October 3, 1940, at 3:30 p. m., President Manson in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Edward H. Hume, M.D.

The minutes of the fifth stated meeting of the year were approved.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted.

The resignation of the Reverend John H. Raven, D.D., was accepted with deep regret.

Copies of the new Army and Navy Testaments were presented.

The Board authorized the execution of a lease for the Society's Southwestern District and Dallas Depository at 1914 Main Street, Dallas, Texas, for the term of five years commencing the 15th day of October, 1940.

The poster and copies of the brochure "For the Healing of the Nations" for Universal Bible Sunday, December 8, 1940, were presented.

The Treasurer reported the following consignments to the Foreign Agencies:

May	Volumes	Value
Latin America	77,353	\$5,802.39
Far East	100	41.16
	77,453	\$5,843.55
June		
Latin America	1,033	\$447.23
Far East	82	72.19
	1,115	\$519.42
July		
Latin America	15,852	\$1,021.80
Far East	340	156.76
	16,192	\$1,178.56
August		
Latin America	17,342	\$3,361.10
Far East	356	97.23
	17,698	\$3,458.33

The issues from the Bible House during the month of May were 294,850 volumes; June, 246,392 volumes; July, 290,112 volumes; and August, 317,533 volumes.

The meeting was adjourned.

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